

**Amendments to the Specification**

Applicants make the following amendments to the identifying numerals of Figure 6 in the corresponding text. No new matter has been added.

Please replace paragraph [0038] with the following amended paragraph:

[0038] Figure 6 is a flow chart of one method 600 for executing database queries. Preferably, though it is not required, method implementation 600 is used when DCRs are updated frequently and those updates are frequently concurrent with queries, as identified in steps 410 610 and 420 620. In step 430 630, read locks can be placed on all the DCR information in the database system dictionary prior to reading that information for use by the optimizer 250 in choosing an execution plan. Once the plan is chosen, the locks on the DCR information for which there are no dependent steps can be released in step 440 640. After the plan is executed, the remaining locks on DCR information can be released in step 450 650. As a result of the locks being placed before reading the information used to generate and choose the execution plan, DCRs for which there are dependent steps do not change and query results are accurate.

**Amendments to the Drawings**

Applicants amend the identifying numerals of Figure 6 of the drawings as indicated in the attached Replacement Sheet and Annotated Marked Up Drawing. Each sheet is labeled accordingly.

Applicants have not added any claims in amending the application and believe that no fees are due. However, should the Commissioner deem any fees are due, including any fees for extensions of time, Applicants respectfully request that the Commissioner accept this as a Petition Therefor, and further authorize the Commissioner to debit any fees due from Baker Botts L.L.P. Deposit Account Number 02-0383, Order Number 069092.0204.

Respectfully submitted,

Baker Botts L.L.P.

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